

501 Palm Avenue  
Hialeah, Florida 33010  
Phone: 305-883-5800  
Fax: 305-883-5932  
www.hialeahfl.gov



**Media Contacts**

**Chief of Staff Arnie Alonso**  
Office: 305-883-5800  
Cell: 305-801-7571

**William Sanchez**  
Office: 305-687-2650  
Cell: 786-473-6489

**City of Hialeah**  
**For Immediate Release**

# Press Release

**CITY OF HIALEAH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**Earns Grant to Fight Hunger in Children during the Summer**  
*Grant provided by National Recreation and Park Association and Walmart Foundation*

**Hialeah, Florida, June 13, 2012** – The City of Hialeah Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), has been selected to benefit from a \$1.5 million grant received by NRPA from the Walmart Foundation to support summer feeding programs in 28 park and recreation agencies across the U.S. The City of Hialeah Department of Recreation has received a \$60,000.00 grant to support its food service program in Hialeah.

**“Helping children and families in our local community is a key objective of the City of Hialeah Department of Parks and Recreation,”** said Mayor Carlos Hernandez. **“We are thrilled to be a part of NRPA’s national effort to combat hunger, particularly in these troubled economic times, and are pleased that Walmart has lent their support to Hialeah. Through Walmart’s generosity, over 2,000 of our area children will have better, more nutritious summers.”**

Support for the feeding program is part of Walmart’s Summer Giving Campaign – a \$20 million initiative aimed at filling the gaps created when schools close for the summer. The initiative will help expand nutrition, learning and employment services to children throughout the summer months.

While many children look forward to the summer break, recent research shows that health may decline in children during the summer due to lower levels of physical activity and lack of access to healthy meals.

Only one in seven of the low-income students who depended on the National School Lunch Program during the regular 2010-2011 school year received summer meals in July 2011 according to a report released by the Food Research and Action Center in June 2012.

**“Park and recreation agencies are on the frontline in the fight to reduce hunger especially among children,”** says Barbara Tulipane, president and CEO of NRPA. **“The generous gift from the Walmart Foundation will help our local champions provide nutritious meals for millions of children and support the development of a healthy, connected and active generation of Americans.”**

For the third year, NRPA has awarded grants to park and recreation agencies for feeding programs that have served more than 16 million meals to low-income children, an increase of 3.7 million meals over 2009 figures.

The City of Hialeah's Departments of Parks and Recreation and Education and Community Services, through cooperation, provide many wonderful youth programs throughout the summer and year-round. Our City truly has a vested interest in the well-being and the futures of our children. For more information please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 305-687-2650 or email us at [recreation@hialeahfl.gov](mailto:recreation@hialeahfl.gov) and if you wish to contact the Education and Community Services Department please call 305-818-9143 or email at [ilagomacini@hialeahfl.gov](mailto:ilagomacini@hialeahfl.gov).

For more information on NRPA's summer feeding support, visit [www.nrpa.org/feeding](http://www.nrpa.org/feeding) or contact Jimmy O'Connor, senior manager of corporate grants, at [joconnor@nrpa.org](mailto:joconnor@nrpa.org).

For additional information on how Walmart is bringing its commitment to hunger relief to life this summer, visit <http://www.walmartfoundation.org>.

### **About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of \$2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit <http://www.walmartfoundation.org>.

### **About the National Recreation and Park Association**

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

For more information, visit [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).

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